

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 H-01 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1396

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5305

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, MASS
SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIVE FRASER INQUIRY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY
ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 159593

1. OUR PRINCIPAL MILITARY MONITORING TECHNIQUE CONSISTS
OF PERIODIC MILGROUP VISITS TO ARGENTINA ARMED FORCES
INSTALLATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. MILGROUP ESTIMATES
THAT ITS MEMBERS VISIT EACH INSTALLATION CONTAINING US DEFENSE
ARTICLES SUPPLIED THROUGH FMS (MAT MATERIEL AND EXCESS DEFENSE
MATERIAL PROGRAMS WERE TERMINATED IN FY 1967) ON THE AVERAGE
OF THREE TIMES PER YEAR. ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES ARE ALSO
ACUTELY AWARE OF PROHIBITIONS CONTAINED IN MASM REFERRED TO
IN PARA 3, REFTEL.

2. IN AND OF THEMSELVES, OUR MONITORING TECHNIQUES AND, OF
COURSE, GOA UNDERSTANDING OF US GROUND RULES ARE INSUFFICIENT
TO GUARANTEE THAT ARGENTINES ARE COMPLYING WITH PROHIBITIONS
AGAINST DIVERSION CONTAINED IN MASM. OUR PRINCIPAL BASIS FOR
CONFIDENCE THAT ARGENTINES HAVE NOT BEEN DIVERTING SUCH
EQUIPMENT TO PROHIBITED PURPOSES IS THAT MOSE
DEFENSE ARTICLES PROVIDED GOA IN RECENT YEARS UNDER
MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS DO NOT LEND THEMSELVES TO INTERNAL
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SECURITY OPERATIONS, LET ALONE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR FOR
REPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE PRINCIPAL HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA WHICH CONCERN US ARE KIDNAPPING, TORTURE,
PROLONGED DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGES AND ASSASSINATION OF
PRISONERS. NONE OF THE DEFENSE ARTICLES PROVIDED UNDER THE
SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN RECENT YEARS REMOTELY CAN BE
CONNECTED TO SUCH ACTIVITIES. THE PRINCIPAL AREAS OF

CONTENTION IS THAT OF HELICOPTERS. HELICOPTERS ARE USED FOR SURVEILLANCE AND TRACKING PURPOSES IN URBAN GUERRILLA SITUATIONS. IT IS CONCEIVABLE, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT (AND OUR MONITORING IS INADEQUATE TO DETERMINE WHETHER) HELICOPTERS PROVIDED UNDER FMS MAY HAVE BEEN USED FOR SUCH PURPOSES. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE PROVIDED AMMUNITION I.E. 155 MM. SHELLS, SUCH AMMO IS NOT USED IN TERRORIST OPERATIONS.

3. OUR KNOWLEDGE AND OBSERVATION OF MILITARY AND POLICE PROCEDURES ARE SUFFICIENT TO CONVINCE US THAT NO DEFENSE ARTICLES PROVIDED THE MILITARY VIA FMS HAVE BEEN DIVERTED TO THE POLICE FORCE. MOST POLICE EQUIPMENT INCLUDING WEAPONS, TRANSPORTATION AND AMMUNITION IS MANUFACTURED IN ARGENTINA. FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE BUENOS AIRES 829.
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